

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 21, 2010, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks together with the attached Request for Continued Examination (RCE) are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 21 are rejected. Claims 1 and 21 are amended. Claim 8 is withdrawn from further consideration in this application. Thus, Claims 1 – 21 are pending in this application. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7 and 9-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by newly-cited Celinska et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,376,691, hereinafter “Celinska”). Claim 1 has been amended. To the extent that the above-noted rejection remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully submit that Claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 21 recite subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references.

Claim 1 from which all of the other claims depend directly or indirectly, specifically claims, *inter alia*, applying, onto a base material, a dispersion containing fine particles of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of indium, tin, antimony, and zinc, fine particles of at least one alloy consisting of at least two metals selected from the metals specified above and aluminum or a mixture of these fine

particles. The coated layer is first fired in an atmosphere which never undergoes any oxidation of the foregoing metal and/or alloy; and is subsequently fired in an oxidizing atmosphere at a temperature of not more than 300° C to thus form the transparent conductive film. (*Emphasis added*).

Celinska teaches a liquid precursor for forming a transparent metal oxide thin film. In the material from line 66 of column 8 through line 6 of column 9, Celinska states “(t)he word “solution” is used in this disclosure in its technical sense, in which it means a mixture of two or more substances uniformly dispersed at the molecular level. It does not include suspensions of any type, including dispersions, colloidal suspensions or emulsions. Thus, the phrase “precursor solution” as used in this disclosure means a solution in which a compound containing an element of the final desired solid material is dissolved in a liquid solvent.” (*Emphasis added*). Examples 3 and 6, noted by the Office Action, specifically state “(t)hin films of tin-antimony oxide doped with niobium were formed on a series of silicon dioxide wafers using an inventive non-aqueous metal organic liquid precursor solution containing metal organic precursor compounds ...” and “(i)nvective liquid precursors ... were used to make tin-antimony thin films under various annealing conditions.” (*Emphasis added*).

Consequently, there is no teaching in Celinska of “applying, onto a base material, a dispersion containing fine particles of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of indium, tin, antimony, and zinc, fine particles of at least one alloy consisting of at least two metals selected from the metals specified above and aluminum or a mixture of these fine particles.”

Further, Celinska clearly teaches a temperature of 400° – 500° C for the annealing step(s) Column 14, lines 7 – 8, Examples 3 and 6. Claim 1 requires the firing in an oxidizing atmosphere is at a temperature of not more than 300° C to thus form the transparent conductive film.

Therefore, there can be no anticipation of the claimed subject matter.

Claims 2 – 7 and 9 – 21 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons as above as well as for the additional features claimed therein.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Celinska.

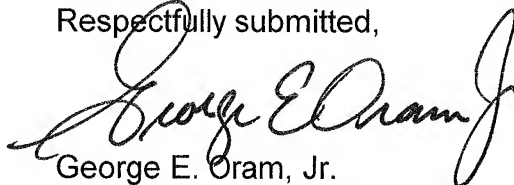
Consequently, it is strongly contended that clear differences exist between the present invention as claimed in Claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 21 and the prior art relied upon. It is further contended that these differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as claimed was not anticipated and would not have been rendered obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art viewing the reference.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Docket Number 029929-00032.

Respectfully submitted,



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